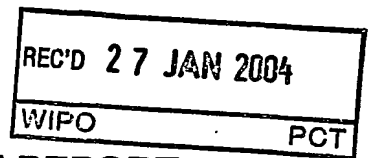


PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Rec'd PCT/PTO 06 JUL 2004

Applicant's or agent's file reference 200543/EP/pr		FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP 02/00382	International filing date (day/month/year) 09.01.2002	Priority date (day/month/year) 09.01.2002	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC H04M17/00			
Applicant TELEFONAKTIEBOLAGET L M ERICSON (PUBL) et al.			

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.



2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 4 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the opinion
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 09.07.2003	Date of completion of this report 26.01.2004
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Kahl, M Telephone No. +49 89 2399-7586 

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. **PCT/EP 02/00382**

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

2-10 as originally filed
1 received on 19.11.2003 with letter of 18.11.2003

Claims, Numbers

2-19 as originally filed
1, 20-22 received on 19.11.2003 with letter of 18.11.2003

Drawings, Sheets

1/2-2/2 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
☐ the claims, Nos.:
☐ the drawings, sheets:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. **PCT/EP 02/00382**

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-22
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-22
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-22
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

A. Citations and explanations made in respect of paragraph V:

1. Die invention relates to a method for managing unit reservation of an account by a credit management system in a multi service telecommunications system according to claim 1 and the related system according to claim 20.
2. The provision of several services against (prepaid) units taken from one account is commonly known.
3. The underlying problem is that requests for additional services are rejected if the account, due to already reserved credits for other services, does not provide the necessary number of available units which are required for credit reservation in order to allow service provision of the new additional request.
4. The problem is solved by the characterising feature of claim 1, i.e. the step of a forced booking that allows to book during service provision the already used units from the reserved units and to release the remaining credits. (see description: page 3, line 30 -page 4, line 2).
5. The invention provides the advantage, that blocked, but currently unneeded reserved units can be released, so that for additional, new service requests a reservation of credits can be made from the thus released credits.
6. D1: US5,453,982 discloses a similar solution for managing memory space allocation in a receiving entity in a packet communication, decrementing the stored credit value for each transmitted packet, the source also providing a packet debit command.
D2: WO98/56160 discloses a prepaid method and system for handling parallel calls by reserving credits equivalent to a typical duration for each request, however, blocks requests, when insufficient amount of money is available.

The subject-matter of present invention is neither disclosed nor rendered obvious by these documents of the search report.
7. The subject-matter of amended claims 1 and 20 thus is considered as new and inventive, Articles 33(2) and (3) PCT.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/EP02/00382

8. Claims 2 to 19 and 21 to 22 depend on claim 1 and claim 20, respectively, and therefore are also considered to fulfill the requirements of Articles 33(2) and (3) PCT.
9. Present invention also is industrially applicable, Article 33(4) PCT.